

August 25, 2014

Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of the Hispanic Federation, I appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed Comcast-Time Warner Cable transaction. The Hispanic Federation (HF) is a network of Latino serving nonprofit agencies that serve the most vulnerable members of our community. We advocate nationally on vital issues including education, health, immigration, economic empowerment, civic engagement and the environment.

As a national advocacy organization, we have partnered with Comcast and the Comcast Foundation for many years to advance civic engagement and voter education in New York, mainly focusing on empowering low-income individuals in the Latino community. I deeply appreciate this partnership, in large part because Comcast and HF have developed a common understanding of some of the major challenges faced by the Latino community and ways we can work systemically to overcome them together.

Underlying these challenges are the fundamental issues of civic participation and also of education, which are intertwined, since low educational attainment can be a factor in decreased civic participation. Key to surmounting these challenges is educating the Latino community, and central to that is closing the digital divide and dramatically lowering barriers to entry so that millions of low-income children, youth and families who are shut out can gain access to fast and affordable broadband connections.

The digital divide is a perennial issue for the city of New York. Given this, I welcome Comcast to use its resources and talents to uplift our community. If approved, I believe Comcast Internet Essentials, and other low-cost broadband products, can provide opportunities to close the digital divide and help New York families acquire 21st century skills - especially if these services expand access to fast, reliable and affordable internet connectivity for the low-income individuals that we serve.

We at the Hispanic Federation are also excited about the possibilities for new investments in infrastructure for our communities. Comcast has pledged to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to continue to improve their networks and those acquired in the merger. As Comcast's network reaches all communities, these investments could be the groundwork for economic development in heavily Hispanic sections of New York, if detailed milestones and oversight systems are made to ensure that these communities will truly benefit.

During the past 20 years, the Hispanic Federation has developed strategic partnerships with corporate and community foundations to deliver programs and services to New York City's most vulnerable citizens. Hispanic Federation has a proven record with Comcast on important civic projects, and they have consistently and intently listened when we raised a concern about issues important to the Hispanic community. We urge the Commission to work with Comcast to ensure that this proposed transaction will serve the public interest by investing in our community and expanding access to fast and affordable broadband connectivity for the vulnerable communities we care for and serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose Calderon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jose Calderon  
President